

CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

OCTOBER

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Out of the
DIABOLICAL DEPTHS
of **HELL** came the
WINGED CREATURES
OF **SATAN**

The
GHOST TIGER

"I rode the ghastly train
that collects the souls
of the damned!"

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THE WITCHES' CURSE

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CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

OCTOBER 1971

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

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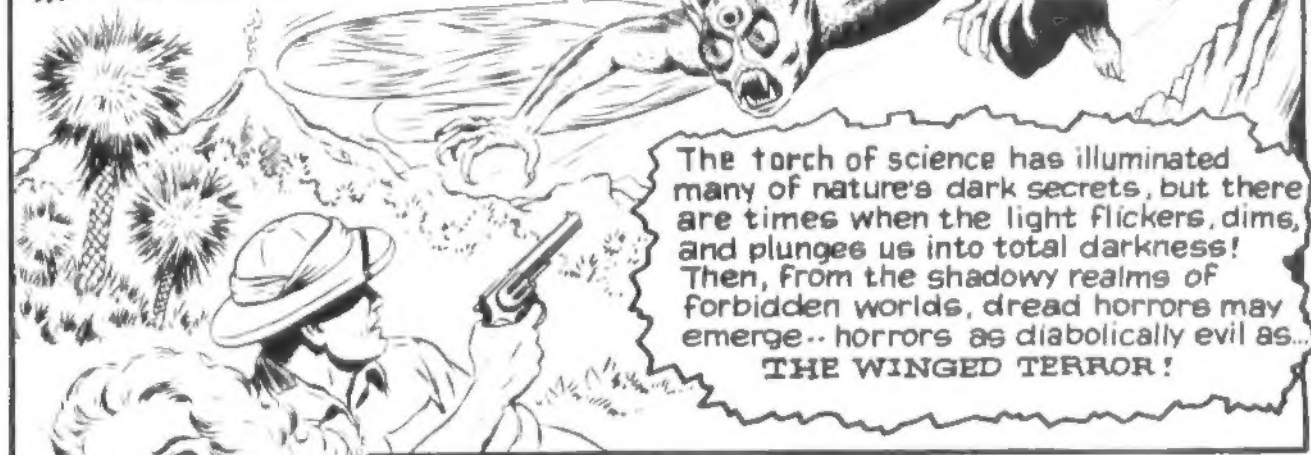
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The WINGED CREATURE



The torch of science has illuminated many of nature's dark secrets, but there are times when the light flickers, dims, and plunges us into total darkness! Then, from the shadowy realms of forbidden worlds, dread horrors may emerge-- horrors as diabolically evil as...
THE WINGED TERROR!



IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON JUNGLES--

BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE US NOW, BALLU-- WE'D NEVER MAKE THAT MOUNTAIN ALONE!

FORBIDDEN TO ENTER CHAPPI JUNGLE! WE GO BACK NOW! WE GO BACK!



YOU'LL TAKE US, BALLU, EVEN IF I HAVE TO---

THAT WON'T HELP, SIR! LET'S HEAR WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

IN A VOICE TINGED WITH DREAD--

CHAPPI JUNGLE IS HOME OF EVIL GODS! THOSE WHO ENTER NEVER RETURN-- SOME DIE, BUT MANY BECOME **CHIWALLIES!** THEY FLY THROUGH AIR-- KILL **EVERY-THING!** LISTEN TO BALLU! **GO BACK!**



WH-WHAT DOES HE MEAN, DAD? WHAT ARE THESE CHI-WALLIES?

JUST SUPERSTITIOUS ROT, KATHY! THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR-- NOTHING!

CLEAR OUT, BALLU, IF YOU WANT TO-- BUT **WE'RE** PUSHING ON! I'VE SPENT **YEARS** SEARCHING FOR THIS VOLCANO-- AND I'M NOT BEING STOPPED BY **ANYTHING!**

WELL, MICHAEL, THAT LEAVES ONLY THE THREE OF US -- PROVIDING **YOU'RE** WILLING TO COME ALONG!

WHEN I JOINED YOUR EXPEDITION, I WAS DETERMINED TO SEE IT THROUGH! **COUNT ME IN!**

WE GO-- **QUICK!**



WHAT DO YOU THINK, MIKE? COULDN'T DAD BE **WRONG**-- AND A BIT TOO IM-PATIENT?

YOUR FATHER'S A GREAT SCIENTIST, KATHY, AND THAT MOUNTAIN HE SEEKS REPRESENTS A CHALLENGE! REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE THINK, HE **NEEDS** US-- AND WE'VE GOT TO **STICK BY HIM!**

That SAME NIGHT-- AFTER MAKING CAMP...

MICHAEL! KATHY! THIS WAY!-- HURRY!

OH-OH-- SOUNDS LIKE **TROUBLE!**



HOLY MACKEREL-- WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A COCOON, MICHAEL-- **LARGER THAN ANY KNOWN TO SCIENCE! HURRY, MAN-- SLASH IT OPEN!**

Suddenly-- SWOOPING OUT OF THE BLACK SKY--



SCRAWWWW!

MERCIFUL HEAVENS!





As THE FEARFUL CREATURE'S WINGS STRIKE WITH THE FORCE OF A PILEDRIVER--



As MIKE SINKS HELPLESSLY TO THE GROUND--



When MIKE FINALLY REVIVES--



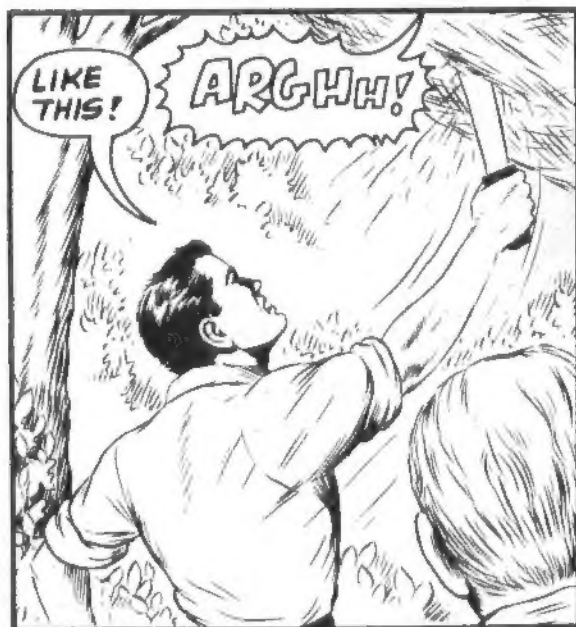
After THE FEVERISH APPLICATION
OF FIRST AID--

Y-YOU SAY
KATHY IS
GONE?
BUT WHERE?
WE MUST
GO AFTER
HER!

SURE, BUT FIRST
THERE'S SOMETHING
WE HAVE TO DO!
SOMETHING THAT
MIGHT GIVE US A
CLUE TO THIS
INCREDIBLE
BUSINESS!

WAIT! THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT'S
INSIDE!

EXACTLY--
BUT I'M
GOING TO
FIND
OUT!



LIKE
THIS!

ARGHH!



THAT CRY--IT WAS HUMAN!
BUT-- THAT DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE! A COCOON IS A
NESTING PLACE FOR
MOTHS AND BUTTER-
FLIES, BUT NEVER--

MAYBE IT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE-- BUT
IT'S STILL TRUE!
DON'T YOU SEE?
BALLU'S STORY
WASN'T SUPER-
STITIOUS ROT!

HE SAID THOSE WHO ENTERED THIS
JUNGLE WERE CHANGED INTO CHI-
WALLIES --THEIR WORD FOR
FLYING CREATURES! THIS
SOUNDS FAR-FETCHED, BUT
THESE CREATURES MUST
PLACE THEIR VICTIMS IN THESE
COCOONS, AND AFTER A
PERIOD OF TIME, THE HUMANS
HATCH OUT AS
ONE OF THEIR
OWN KIND!

GREAT SCOTT!
KATHY'S IN
THEIR CLUTCHES
NOW! DO YOU
THINK THEY--?

I'M NOT JUMPING
TO CONCLUSIONS,
BUT I'M STARTING
OUT AFTER HER AT
ONCE! AND I CAN
TRAVEL FASTER
ALONE!

I-- I
UNDERSTAND!
GO-- AND
MAY THE
FATES BE
WITH YOU!

Through EVER-THICKENING JUNGLE,
MIKE PUSHED ON ALONE! THEN--
AS EVENING FELL--

THERE IT IS-- THE VOLCANO WE
WERE SEARCHING FOR! BUT
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS
WHEELING AROUND THE
SUMMIT? WELL, THE
ONLY WAY TO FIND
OUT IS TO--
INVESTIGATE!



Approaching THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE--

IT'S THE CHIWALLIES ALL RIGHT, AND THIS MOUNTAIN MUST BE THE CENTER OF THEIR ACTIVITIES! NOW, IF I ONLY KNEW WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO KATHY, I COULD--

HOLY SMOKE-- A CAVE LEADING INTO THE MOUNTAIN! THIS COULD BE A SUCKER PLAY-- BUT I'VE GOT TO LOOK AROUND INSIDE!

Cautiously ADVANCING INTO THE GRIM PASSAGE--

THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT-- SOME KIND OF MONSTROUS HATCHERY-- AND EACH OF THOSE COCOONS MUST CONTAIN A HUMAN VICTIM! IF THOSE FIENDS HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO KATHY, I'LL--

Suddenly--

OHH-HHH!

THAT SHRIEK-- IT'S KATHY!

Plunging ONWARD TOWARD THE CRY, OBLIVIOUS TO DANGER----

OH, MIKE-- THANK HEAVENS!

I'LL CUT YOU LOOSE PRONTO, HONEY-- THEN WE'VE GOT TO RUN LIKE BLAZES -- BECAUSE THOSE DEMONS MAY REAPPEAR ANY SECOND!

THERE-- THAT DOES IT!

TOO LATE! I HEAR THEM-- THEY'RE COMING BACK!

HEAD FOR THE BRUSH! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

But AS THE TERRIFIED PAIR FLED FORWARD, A GHASTLY HORDE STREAMED FORTH FROM THE VOLCANO'S CRATER-- THE AIR VIBRATING TO THE BEAT OF ENORMOUS WINGS AND RAUCOUS CRIES--



THEY'VE SPOTTED US-- WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE!

KEEP RUNNING, KATHY-- I'VE GOT A WILD IDEA!



THIS DRY GRASS WILL BURN LIKE TINDER! IT'LL BE A **MIRACLE** IF IT WORKS, BUT IT'S GOT TO!

AS THE SOARING FLAMES LEAPT UPWARDS, THE STRANGE CREATURES PAUSED IN FLIGHT-- AND BEGAN CIRCLING AS IF **HYPNOTIZED**! THEN--

LOOK! THEY'RE PLUNGING INTO THE FLAMES! THEY'RE DESTROYING THEMSELVES! BUT WHY---?

IT'S WHAT I HOPED, KATHY! THESE CREATURES COME FROM COCOONS AND ARE LIKE MOTHS, ONLY ON A LARGER SCALE! I STARTED THAT FIRE ON A WILD HUNCH-- HOPING THEY'D BE DRAWN TO THE FIRE THE WAY A MOTH IS DRAWN TO THE FLAME OF A CANDLE!



One BY ONE, THE CHIWALLIES HURTLE TO THEIR DOOM-- THEIR DEATH CRIES MINGLED WITH THE CRACKLING FLAMES--

Later-- IT'S BEEN A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE, BUT IT'S TAUGHT ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT! FROM NOW ON I'LL KEEP AN OPEN MIND-- THE WAY A MAN OF SCIENCE SHOULD!

I AGREE, SIR! SO LONG AS ALL MEN DO THAT, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!



The End

A HEX ON MY BROTHER!



WE THINK OF SUPERNATURAL EVENTS TAKING PLACE FAR FROM HOME-- IN LONELY OLD WORLD CASTLES-- IN SAVAGE, VOODOO-RIDDEN ISLANDS WHERE CIVILIZATION HAS NEVER PENETRATED! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE EVIL THAT LURKS IN THE LONELY HAMLETS OF OUR OWN UNITED STATES? WHAT ABOUT THE DREAD INCANTATIONS AND BLACK POWERS PRACTICED BY SOME OF OUR OWN PEOPLE? **RIDICULOUS**, YOU SAY? THE READ ON-- AND LEARN ABOUT--

The HEX of HORROR!

IN A LONELY PENNSYLVANIA FARMHOUSE...

THERE HE IS, COMBIN' OUT HIS **BEARD** AG'IN! HOW I HATE HIM-- AN' THAT BEARD O' HIS HE LOVES SO MUCH!

WHY YOU POKIN' AROUND AT THE DOOR, MARTHA? COME ON IN AN' STOP PUSSYFOOTIN' AROUND! WHAT DO Y' WANT?



I WANT MY **MONEY**, EB! YOU SOLD EVERY HOG ON THE FARM YESTERDAY, AN' YOU AIN'T GIVE ME MY SHARE YET! I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE MY **HALF-BROTHER**! YOU BEEN **CHEATIN'** ME TOO LONG!

YOU AIN'T GOT NO MONEY COMIN'! NOW **GIT BACK TO YOUR WORK!**





IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KNOW THINGS-- ABOUT **EB**, ESPECIALLY! DIDN'T HE STEAL MOST O' MY LAND AFTER MY HUSBAND DIED-- AN' HAVEN'T I BEEN WAITIN' FER A WAY TO GIT BACK AT HIM? **YOU** CAN HELP ME, MARTHY-- BY GITTIN' ME SOMETHIN' PERSONAL THAT BELONGS TO HIM!

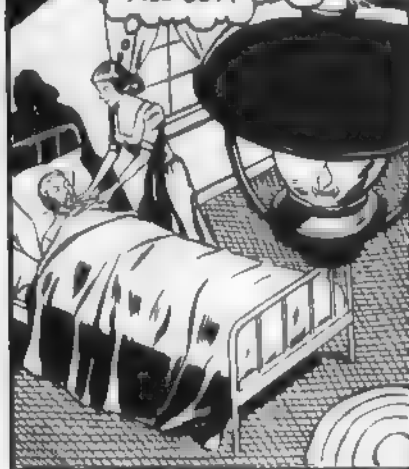


MAIN THING'S TO GIT ME MY MONEY-- AN' THEN HAVE SOMETHIN' HAPPEN TO HIM! COULD BE TO THAT **BEARD** OF HIS, MAYBE-- HE'S THAT PROUD OF IT---

THAT GIVES ME AN IDEE! GO RIGHT HOME, AN' WHEN HE'S SLEEPIN', YOU CUT OFF A COUPLA HAIRS FROM THAT BEARD AN' BRING 'EM BACK TO ME! AN' BRING THE **LOOKIN'-GLASS** HE USES, TOO! THAT'S **ALL I NEED!**



LATER... THERE! I GUESS I'VE GOT ENOUGH O' HIS BEARD! NOW ALL I NEED IS THAT LOOKIN'-GLASS AN' WE'RE ALL SET!



AND SO THE STAGE WAS SET FOR TRAGEDY, AND-- **HORROR!**

WH-WHAT YOU AIM TO DO?

I AIM TO ASK THE **DEVIL** TO SIT ON THIS GLASS! I RECKON EB'LL NEVER SEE SUCH ANOTHER SIGHT AS I AIM TO MAKE HIM SEE!



WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' NOW? WHAT'S THAT **BLACK CIRCLE** FOR?

HUSH, MARTHY, AN' YOU BETTER LOOK THE OTHER WAY! WHAT I'M GOIN' TO DO AIN'T A PRETTY THING TO SEE! I LEARNED THIS HEX FROM MY GRAND-MAMMY! SHE CALLED IT-- **THE HEX OF HORROR!**



THEN, AS THE WIZENED CRONE INTONED THE ANCIENT SPELL...

SPIRITS OF THE BURNING DEEPS TWISTED IN A WRITHING MASS SCATTER DOOM ON HE WHO SLEEPS **SHOW THY MASTER, ON THE GLASS!**



THEN, AS THE ROOM FILLED WITH THE GHASTLY FUMES OF BRIMSTONE...

YOU HAVE HEARD MY CALL, GREAT ONE! LET EB KNOW YOUR TERRIBLE VISAGE! LET THAT BE MY REVENGE-- AND **MARTHA'S!**

THESE FUMES.. THEY'RE STRANGLING ME! I'M GOIN' TO... FAINT... **OHNN!**



GIT UP, YOU MILKSOP-- NOW IT'S UP TO YOU! TAKE THE GLASS HOME AN' PUT IT WHERE HE KEEPS IT! WHEN HE LOOKS INTO IT IN THE MORNIN', YOU'LL GIT THAT MONEY-- AN' **MORE!** BUT MIND YOU DON'T LOOK INTO IT-- OR YOU'LL WISH YOU HADN'T!



AT LAST EB'S A-GONNA GIT HIS COME-UPPANCE-- I CAN HARDLY WAIT! MEBBE WHAT HE SEES IN THE MIRROR WILL MAKE HIM LOSE HIS BEARD-- WONDER WHAT IT IS? WISH I DARED TAKE A PEEK-- BUT THAT OL' WITCH WARNED ME **NOT TO!**



MOMENTS LATER, AS EB'S EVERY BREATH STIRRED TERROR WITHIN MARTHA...

THERE! THE GLASS IS IN PLACE, AN' I AIN'T LOOKED AT IT ONCE-- NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED TO! BUT WHAT'D THE WIDOW MEAN THAT IN THE MORNIN' I'D GIT **MORE** MONEY THAN EB OWED ME? WAIT-- MEBBE I CAN FIND THE ANSWER UP IN THE ATTIC WHERE PAPPY HID AWAY THE BOOK ON WITCHCRAFT AND HEXES JUST AFORE HE DIED!



HERE IT IS, RIGHT WHERE I FIGURED! NOW LET'S SEE...

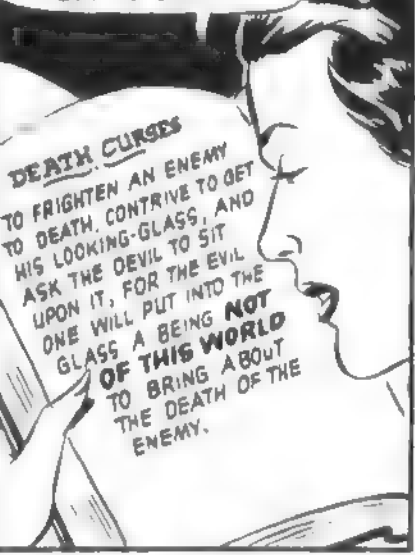


THEN, AS THE HOURS TICKED AWAY UNNOTICED...

HMM, THERE'S CURES HERE FOR FALLING HAIR, MEASLES, LUMBAGO, RHEUMATISM, BUT I DON'T SEE... WAIT! HERE IT IS-- **UNDER DEATH CURSES!**



8-- BUT I HADN'T COUNTED ON **KILLIN'** HIM! I-- I'VE GOT TO STOP...



DEATH CURSES
TO FRIGHTEN AN ENEMY TO DEATH. CONTRIVE TO GET HIS LOOKING-GLASS, AND ASK THE DEVIL TO SIT UPON IT, FOR THE EVIL ONE WILL PUT INTO THE GLASS A BEING **NOT** OF THIS WORLD TO BRING ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE ENEMY.

THEN, AS THE CHIMES OF THE ANCIENT GRANDFATHER CLOCK TOLLED THROUGH THE STILL HOUSE...

FIVE O'CLOCK-- THAT MEANS EB'LL BE GITTIN' UP! AN' WHEN HE LOOKS INTO THE MIRROR-- HIM WITH HIS WEAK HEART...



THERE WAS STILL TIME TO STOP EB, TO SAVE HIM! BUT THEN CAME THE GRIM, CHILLING THOUGHT...

SAVE HIM-- **WHY?** I'LL MAKE IT A REAL REVENGE-- AN' LET HIM **DIE** WHEN HE GOES TO COMB OUT THAT BEARD O' HIS'N IN THE MIRROR!-- **THERE!**



JEST AS I FIGGERED-- FLAT ON HIS BACK ' EB-- MY DEAR, DEPARTED HALF-BROTHER!



DEAD! SERVES HIM RIGHT-- AN' NOW THE FARM IS MINE, INCLUDIN' THAT SACK O' SILVER HE KEPT HIDDEN IN THE CLOSET!



ALL THE MONEY HE HAD, AN' NOW IT'S-- **MINE!** THAT'S WHAT THE WIDOW KLOPP MEANT-- SAYIN' I'D GIT **MORE'N** I EXPECTED! BUT I KEEP WONDERIN' WHAT IT WAS THAT EB SAW-- WHAT IT WAS THAT COULD'VE FRIGHTENED HIM TO DEATH!



THEN, AS MARTHA LOOKED AT HER DEAD BROTHER WITH FIERCE JOY-- SUDDENLY SHE RECALLED THE LONG FORGOTTEN WORDS OF HER FATHER...

THEN, AS CURIOSITY BEGAN TO BURN FIERCELY AT HER WILL POWER...

REMEMBER, DAUGHTER-- THOSE WHO INVOKE THE DEVIL'S HELP WILL HAVE TO **PAY HIM** WHEN THE TIME COMES!

NO, NO-- I'M NOT GONNA THINK O' THAT ' I-- I'LL THINK O' SOMETHIN' ELSE-- LIKE WHAT COULDA BEEN IN THAT MIRROR!



I AIN'T SCARED O' NOTHIN'-- SO WHY **SHOULDN'T** I TAKE A LOOK ' JEST ONE LITTLE BITTY PEEK CAIN'T HURT ME!



WHY-- IT'S NOTHIN' BUT EB'S FACE, LOOKIN' THE WAY I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE IT-- **BURNIN' UP WITH PAIN!**



I TOLD YOU I'D PAY YOU BACK, EB! I TOLD YOU I'D... **WHAT'S THAT?** HIS FACE-- IT'S **CHANGIN'**-- AN' NOW THERE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE COMIN' OUT OF THE MIRROR!



AND SO, MARTHA CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE--HEX OF HORROR-- MOST FATAL CURSE IN WITCHCRAFT

IT... IT CAN'T BE! NO! NO! KEEP AWAY!



NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! I'LL THROW THIS-- FIRE AT YOU!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, FOOLISH MORTAL! YOU HAVE LOOKED UPON MY FACE-- AND MUST DIE!



STRUGGLE IS USELESS! YOU HAVE CAUSED YOUR OWN DOOM-- BY INVOKING THE FATAL HEX!

NO! NO! YOU WON'T GET ME!

THEN, WITH THE FRENZIED STRENGTH OF ONE Faced WITH DEATH, MARTHA FLUNG THE AWFUL FORM AWAY FROM HER, SWINGING THE BAG OF SILVER AROUND HER MADLY IN THE DARKNESS...

FLAILING MADLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS, MARTHA FOUGHT HER WAY TO THE DOOR! SUDDENLY, SHE FELT SOMETHING TOUCH HER NECK, JERKING UPWARD! THEN, IN HER FRANTIC HASTE...



K-KEEP AWAY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!

HAA-HA-HA!



YOU WON'T GET ME! I'LL GET OUT OF HERE-- OH NO!

THUD!



IT WAS THE WIDOW KLOPP WHO FINALLY FOUND THE BODIES! THEN, WHEN THE POLICE AND VILLAGE DOCTOR HAD ARRIVED...

POOR EB HAD A BAD HEART A LONG TIME-- IT JUST SEEMED TO GIVE OUT, I GUESS! BUT MARTHA-- THIS IS AWFULLY STRANGE! HOW ON EARTH COULD SHE HAVE STRANGLERD HERSELF THAT WAY?

CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY, DOC-- BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN IN THESE HILLS! YOU JEST CAIN'T EXPLAIN 'EM!

RECKON SO, SHERIFF-- IT'S JEST A MYSTERY!



JUST A MYSTERY? PERHAPS! BUT EVERY YEAR THESE "MYSTERIES" TAKE PLACE WITHIN OUR BORDERS, MYSTERIES WHICH WE LIGHTLY BRUSH OFF WITH SUCH A PHRASE AS, "HE MUST HAVE HAD A HEX ON HIM!"

THE END

GHOST TIGER

RAINED OUT! WELL, SWEETHEART—
GUESS **THIS** TAKES CARE OF YOUR
HUNCH THAT WE'D FIND OURSELVES A
FRONT PAGE STORY FOR THE "DISPATCH"
IN THE ZOO!

Have you ever looked into the tawny eyes
of a caged tiger—and known the
meaning of **FEAR**? Have you caught, within
these savage depths, a hint of why tigers stalk
at **NIGHT**—spreading terror in their wake?
Then you'll understand the unholy pair that
scorned both time and distance in their
fiendish search for **REVENGE**! Yes, one of
them was a **TIGER**—and the other—A **ONCE-
LIVING CREATURE** from out of **THE UNKNOWN**!



DON'T LET A LITTLE LIGHTNING GET YOU
DOWN, SANDRA! IT NEVER HITS TWICE
IN THE SAME PLACE—AND IT CERTAINLY
JOINTED **ME** THE DAY YOU SIGNED ON
AS A CUB REPORTER!

DON—TELL ME IF YOU
SEE ANYTHING DOWN
THERE—**AMONG
THE TIGERS!**



IN THE RIPPING GLARE
OF ANOTHER
LIGHTNING BOLT...



AT THE INSTANT DON
RAISES HIS CAMERA...

**THIS I WANT
A PICTURE
OF!**

DON—GET BACK!
**IT'S JUMPING
OUT!**



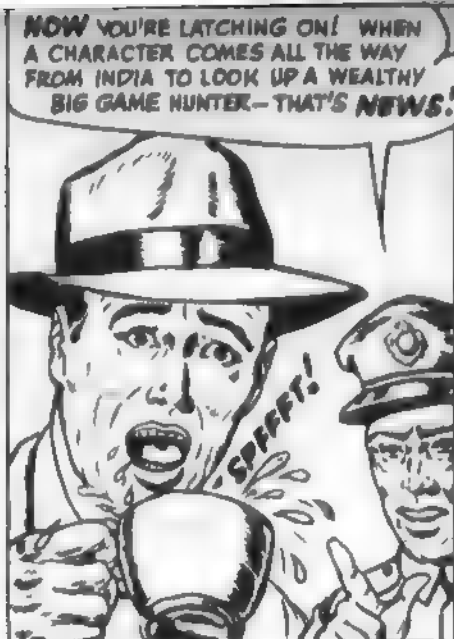
AS THE PHANTOM FLITS THROUGH
THE DRIPPING SHRUBBERY...

GREAT GUNS! NO **HUMAN**
COULD HAVE MADE A LEAP
LIKE THAT—BUT WHAT
IS IT?

ASK THE
TIGERS—**THEY
SEEM TO
KNOW!**







NOW YOU'RE LATCHING ON! WHEN A CHARACTER COMES ALL THE WAY FROM INDIA TO LOOK UP A WEALTHY BIG GAME HUNTER-- THAT'S **NEWS!**



THOSE WHACKY NEWSPAPER PEOPLE -- YOU'D THINK I STUCK 'EM WITH A PIN!

COULD BE -- BUT THEY STUCK YOU WITH THE CHECK!



SOON AFTERWARD ...
OF COURSE -- IT COULD BE **ANOTHER HINDU!**

I'D LIKE TO THINK SO, TOO -- IF I DIDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT FLETCHER ADAMS' HUNTING EXPEDITIONS WERE CHIEFLY FOR **TIGERS!**



MR. ADAMS? WE'RE FROM THE "**DISPATCH**," AND --

HA -- I **THOUGHT** THE NEWSPAPERS WOULD FIND IT AN INTERESTING STORY! AFTER ALL -- IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT AN ENTIRE STAFF OF SERVANTS WALK OUT IN A **PANIC!**



SOMETHING... **SCARED** THEM?

INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THEY SAY IT MOVES AND MAKES NOISES -- MY **FAVORITE TIGER!**



THOSE EYES! DON -- DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

RELAX, SANDRA! THEY **DO** REMIND ME OF THOSE GLARING THINGS WE SAW IN THE ZOO, BUT AFTER ALL -- **THESE EYES ARE JUST GLASS!**



NOT AT ALL! AS A MATTER OF FACT -- THEY HAPPEN TO BE GENUINE **CAT'S-EYES!**

THEY'RE **WHAT?**

CAT'S-EYES -- A GEM! DON'T LET THAT GLOW FROM THE TIGER SKIN ALARM YOU -- I'M CONVINCED IT'S MERELY A FORM OF PHOSPHORESCENT MOLD! ABOUT THE GEMS -- **THEY WERE PART OF MY ADVENTURE IN THAT STRANGE LITTLE VILLAGE IN BENGAL -- THE NIGHT I MET BOTH THIS TIGER AND -- WELL, THE DEVIL KNOWS WHERE HE IS!**

WHO?

JUST A NATIVE I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT MANY A NIGHT SINCE -- **A STRANGE-LOOKING CREEP IN A TURBAN!**

BEFORE WE JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS -- LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY! WHAT **HAPPENED** THAT NIGHT, MR. ADAMS?



I GAVE UP ANY IDEA OF BAGGING A TIGER WHEN WE REACHED A GROUP OF DOME-SHAPED HUTS! THEY **WERE** DIFFERENT FROM ANY I HAD SEEN IN INDIA, EACH WITH A CAT'S-EYE SET ABOVE THE LOW DOORWAY -- BUT **THAT** DIDN'T EXPLAIN MY GUNBEARER'S TERROR! I HAD JUST POCKETED TWO OF THE GEMS WHEN I NOTICED HIM -- **THIS TALL, BEARDED FELLOW IN THE TURBAN!**

AND... WAS THERE A TIGER NEARBY?

STRANGELY ENOUGH -- THAT OCCURRED TO **ME!** THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS STRANGE, GROWLING VOICE -- WHEN HE TOLD ME THERE WERE **NO** TIGERS AROUND -- THAT MADE ME CERTAIN THERE **WAS** ONE! SURE ENOUGH, THE MOMENT HE SLIPPED INTO THE DARKNESS -- **I SAW IT!**



YES, A TIGER -- GLISTENING IN THE MOONLIGHT -- AND I KILLED IT WITH A SINGLE CARELESS SHOT! A STRANGE STORY -- BUT I'D HARDLY CONSIDER IT **SUPERNATURAL** MERELY BECAUSE THAT NATIVE **VANISHED** -- AND DIDN'T TURN UP AGAIN!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I SAW QUITE A BIT OF INDIA DURING THE WAR -- AND THAT PLACE YOU DESCRIBE, WITH THE CAT'S-EYE TALISMANS, HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN A **NATIVE GRAVEYARD!**

AS FOR THE MYSTERIOUS NATIVE -- HE HAS TURNED UP AGAIN! WE SAW HIM TODAY IN THE TIGER DEN AT THE ZOO -- AND HE GROWLED JUST LIKE --

OH!

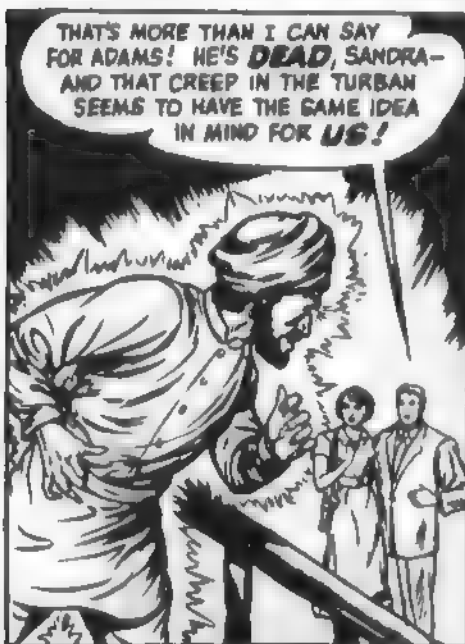
GARRGH!

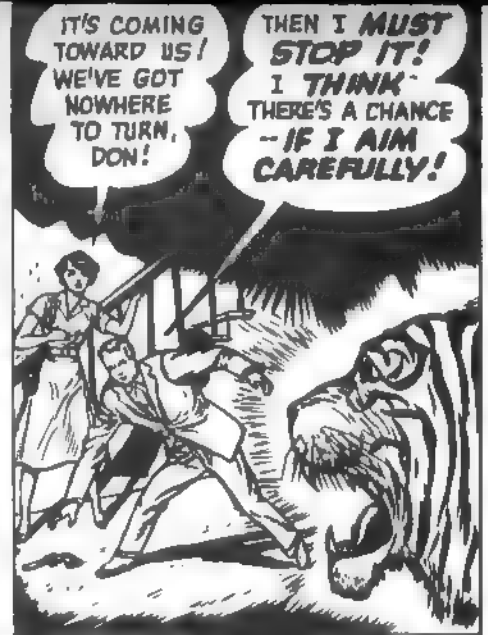


GREAT GUNS! THAT ISN'T JUST THE SNARL OF A TIGER -- IT'S THE WAY **HE** SOUNDED -- **WHEN HE SPOKE!**

BRACE YOURSELF FOR **ANOTHER** JOLT, ADAMS! **HE'S HERE!**

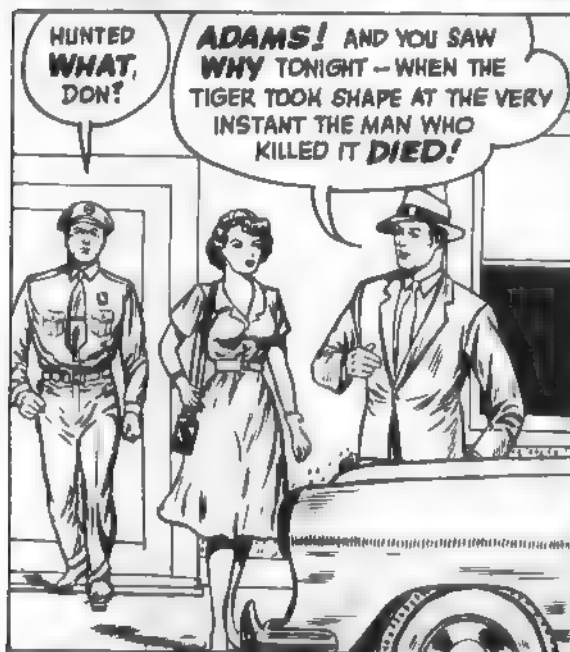
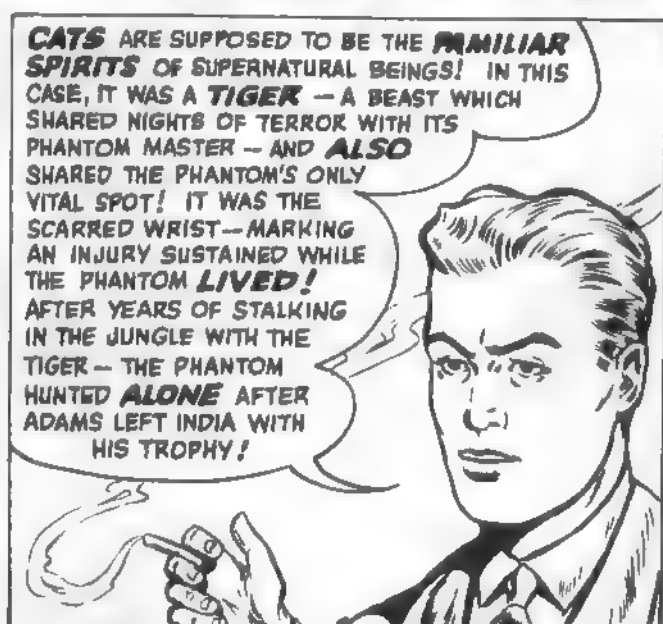






FOR A TERRIBLE SPLIT SECOND, THE TIGER SEEMS TO HANG INERTLY - ITS CLAWS RAKING THE GLOOM!





DEATH at the CARNIVAL!



"TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCES

The
CASE
of

The SUBWAY SPECTRES

(EDITOR'S NOTE) -- EVER SINCE WE STARTED THE "TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCES DEPARTMENT IN THIS MAGAZINE, WE'VE BEEN DELUGED WITH LETTERS TELLING US OF EXPERIENCES WITH DENIZENS OF THE VAST UNKNOWN -- BUT NONE HAS BEEN AS FASCINATINGLY WEIRD AS THE STORY OF PHIL JENKINS OF NEW YORK CITY! HERE IT IS, IN HIS OWN WORDS... **THE CASE OF THE SUBWAY SPECTRES!**

IT HAPPENED ONE FROSTY NIGHT LAST WINTER! I'M FROM THE BRONX MYSELF, AND I'D NEVER BEEN TO THE LONELY REACHES OF BROOKLYN BEFORE -- BUT THAT WAS WHERE THIS GAL I'D MET AT A PARTY LIVED! AFTER I GOT HER HOME, SHE GAVE ME DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET BACK TO THE SUBWAY! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN AWFULLY CRUMMY DIRECTIONS, BECAUSE I HAD THE DEVIL'S OWN TIME FINDING MY WAY AMONG THE DARK, GLOOMY STREETS!



IT MUST'VE BEEN BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR A.M. WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE! THERE A DRUNK STOPPED ME --

LISHEN PAL -- GIMME TWO BITS AN' I'LL GIVE YA A HOT TIP! DON'T GO INTO THAT SHUBWAY -- HIC! -- 'CUZ THE DEATH TRAIN ALLUZ COMES T'ROUGH AROUND THIS TIME! I KNOW -- 'CUZ THAT'S WHEN I TOOK TA DRINKIN'!

BUD, THAT STORY'S WORTH A QUARTER! DEATH TRAIN -- HA!



THE STATION WAS STRANGELY GLOOMY, AND I FOUND MYSELF GROWING MORE UNCOMFORTABLE BY THE MINUTE --

THE QUICKER I GET HOME, THE BETTER I'LL FEEL! THINK I'LL ASK THAT OTHER PASSENGER IF THE EXPRESS RUNS THIS TIME OF NIGHT!



BUT AS I APPROACHED THE "PASSENGER"...

PARDON ME, DOES -- HOLY COW!



THAT... THAT GHASTLY FACE, AND STARING EYES -- SHE ... LOOKS LIKE A WALKING CORPSE! MAYBE THAT DRUNK HAD SOMETHING --- OH, NONSENSE, I'M LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME!

MAXWELL
HOUSE



BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THAT WOMAN'S FACE, EVEN WHEN A TRAIN CAME ROARING INTO THE STATION, PULLING TO A SUDDEN STOP...

WELL, AT LEAST I WON'T BE IN THE SAME CAR WITH HER --- WHAT I NEED IS SOME LIVELY COMPANY!





OVERCOME WITH A MAD DESIRE TO ESCAPE FROM THAT DEVILISH TRAIN, I YANKED FRANTICALLY ON THE EMERGENCY BRAKE CORD—BUT TO NO AVAIL!

STOP THE TRAIN!
LET ME OFF! LET
ME OFF, I SAY!

WE STOP ONLY TO PICK
UP PASSENGERS—WE
DISCHARGE PASSENGERS
ONLY AT OUR
DESTINATION!



D-DESTINATION?
WHAT... WHAT IS
OUR DESTINATION?

HA HAA! YOU DON'T
KNOW OUR DESTINATION?
HA HAA HAAA!

AS THE WILD, HOLLOW, MOCKING LAUGHTER OF THE DEAD ECHOED AROUND ME, I LOST ALL CONTROL OF MYSELF—AND RAN DOWN THE TRAIN IN TERROR!

HA HAA! OUR
DESTINATION!
HA HAA
HAAA!

THE MOTORMAN—HE'S
MY ONLY HOPE! I—I'VE
GOT TO MAKE HIM STOP
THE TRAIN AND LET ME
OFF—I'VE GOT TO!



LIKE ONE POSSESSED, I RACED MADLY THROUGH CAR AFTER CAR CARRYING THAT HORRIBLE CARGO OF LIVING DEAD, UNTIL FINALLY—

HERE'S THE MOTORMAN'S COMPARTMENT!
DEAR LORD... LET HIM BE SOMEONE
HUMAN, ALIVE—SOMEONE
WHO CAN HELP ME!



OH—NO!

THIS... THIS IS A DEATH TRAIN—AND DEATH
HIMSELF IS AT THE CONTROLS! BUT I—I'M
NOT DEAD—I DON'T BELONG HERE! I GOT
ON BY MISTAKE—LET ME OFF—
LET ME OFF!



ONLY THE DEAD HEARD MY WILD SHRIEKS — BUT THEN, AS MY EYE WAS CAUGHT BY THE EMERGENCY DOOR RELEASE, HOPE WAS REBORN WITHIN ME!



THIS'LL GET ME OUT OF HERE! I...I'LL JUMP FROM THE TRAIN — EVEN IF IT KILLS ME! BUT WAIT! THE... THE TRAIN'S SLOWING DOWN!

I CROUCHED AT THE DOOR LIKE A TRACK STAR TOEING THE MARK — AND THE MOMENT THE DOORS OPENED I BOLTED OUT OF THERE LIKE A SHOT!



THERE IT GOES, THAT **DEATH TRAIN**! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT ITS DESTINATION IS, BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT ISN'T **HEAVEN**!



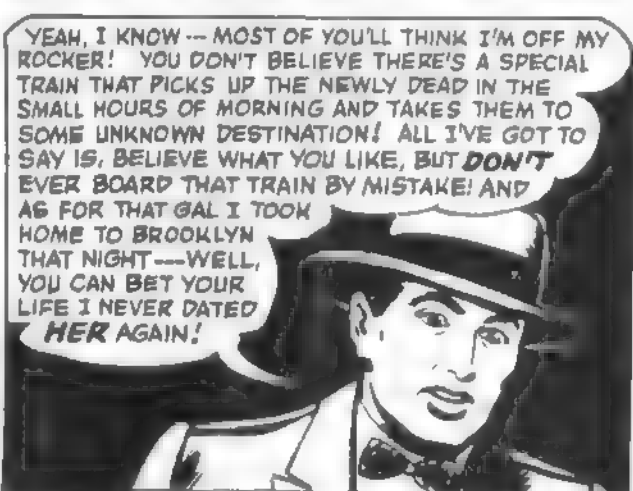
WE'RE PULLING INTO A STATION! THERE ARE THE DEAD, WAITING TO GET ON — BUT I'M GETTING OFF!



WHEW — MADE IT!



YEAH, I KNOW — MOST OF YOU'LL THINK I'M OFF MY ROCKER! YOU DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A SPECIAL TRAIN THAT PICKS UP THE NEWLY DEAD IN THE SMALL HOURS OF MORNING AND TAKES THEM TO SOME UNKNOWN DESTINATION! ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS, BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT **DON'T** EVER BOARD THAT TRAIN BY MISTAKE! AND AS FOR THAT GAL I TOOK HOME TO BROOKLYN THAT NIGHT — WELL, YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE I NEVER DATED **HER** AGAIN!



WHAT WAS PHIL JENKINS' "TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCE, READER — AND IF YOU'VE HAD ANY, WRITE US ABOUT IT, WON'T YOU?

The END

The MARK of the MONSTER



SOME MEN ARE BORN TO BE HUNG...OTHERS WAIT TENSELY FOR THE FATED MIDNIGHT THAT WILL BRING A DARK AND HOODED FORM FROM THE RUSTLING SHADOWS! ONLY THESE HAUNTED FEW CAN KNOW WHAT **THE MARK OF THE MONSTER** MEANT TO **FRED THATCHER**... THE SOFT-PACED HORROR FROM WHICH HE COULD NOT HIDE...THE FLARING DESTINY HE COULD NOT ESCAPE!

ONE NIGHT...ALONG A LANE DAPPLED BY THE CLOUDED MOON...

STRANGE THING --FOR MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE, I'VE HAD THE FEELING OF WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN --AND **NOW** I'VE GOT THE OVERWHELMING CONVICTION THAT IT'LL BE **TONIGHT!**



THE IDEA OF BEING **DESTINED** FOR SOMETHING MIGHT SOUND QUEER TO ANYONE ELSE...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STRANGE CONSTELLATION THAT APPEARED ON THE HORIZON AT THE VERY MOMENT I WAS BORN? THE STARS FORMED SUCH A WEIRD OUTLINE THAT MY FATHER TOOK A PHOTOGRAPH OF THEM...AND I'VE NEVER DOUBTED THAT SOME DAY I'D FIND A LINK BETWEEN THAT SIGN IN THE SKY...AND **MY OWN LIFE!**



SUDDENLY...

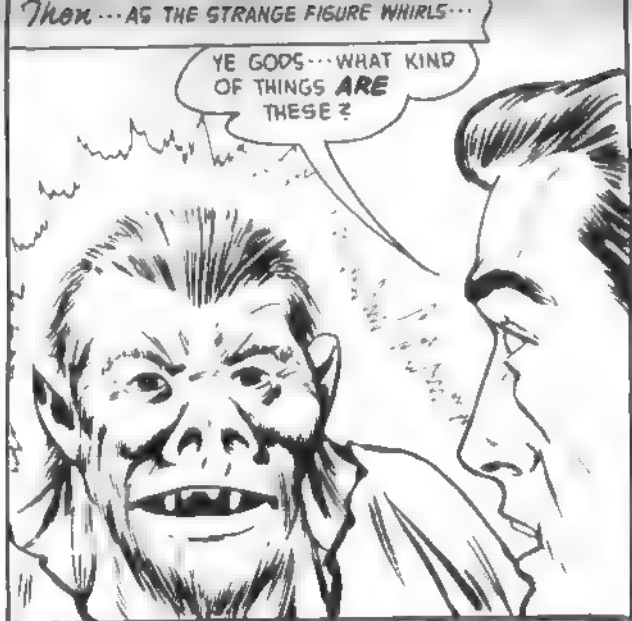
GREAT GUNS! THERE WASN'T A SOUL IN SIGHT WHEN I PASSED THIS WAY JUST A MOMENT AGO!

HELP!





I'LL TRY TO
KEEP 'EM
BUSY, HONEY
... GET
CLEAR!



Then... as the strange figure whirls...

YE GODS... WHAT KIND
OF THINGS ARE
THESE?

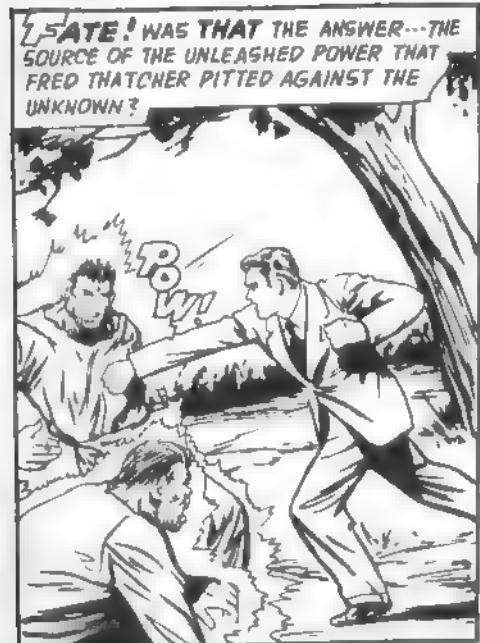


DEADLY AS A LIGHTNING BOLT PRIMED
WITH EVIL...

POW!

DAZED... BUT WITH THE SHOCK OF A SUDDEN
REALIZATION TOWERING ABOVE HIS FEAR...

WHEREVER THESE CREEPS CAME
FROM, THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE
OF... **THIS** IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAIT-
ING FOR... THE MOMENT IN WHICH
I'M FATED TO MEET **THEM**!



FATE! WAS THAT THE ANSWER... THE
SOURCE OF THE UNLEASHED POWER THAT
FRED THATCHER PITTED AGAINST THE
UNKNOWN?

POW!



HOLY SMOKE! I
NEVER DREAMED
I COULD DO IT
... BUT I'VE
GOT 'EM ON
THE RUN!

THANK HEAVEN
YOU WERE CLOSE
ENOUGH TO HELP!
THERE'S SOME-
THING ABOUT YOU
... **SOMETHING**
THAT MADE
THEM
AFRAID!



THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDER-
STAND... BECAUSE THEY COULD
HAVE TORN ME APART WITH NO
TROUBLE AT ALL! BUT WHAT'S
BEHIND THIS...
**WHO ARE
YOU?**

MY NAME IS
VENOMA... AND
MINE IS A SECRET
YOU WILL COME TO
SHARE! HOLD STILL A
MOMENT... YOUR
FACE IS
BLEED-
ING!

THEN, AFTER DABBING AT FRED'S FACE...

WAIT UP! NO NEED
BEING MYSTERIOUS,
HONEY---WHAT
ABOUT THAT
SECRET?

YOU'LL FIND OUT! AFTER HAVING
WAITED **THIS** LONG---WILL A
FEW MORE DAYS MATTER?

MOMENTS LATER

THAT'S STRANGE! SHE SEEMED TO COME FROM NOWHERE
--AND NOW SHE'S VANISHED THE SAME WAY! THE WHOLE
THING'S CRAZY---INCLUDING THE FACT THAT THOSE
MONSTERS REMIND ME OF SOMETHING I'VE
SEEN BEFORE--- **SOMEWHERE!**

SOON AFTERWARD IN A LAIR WHERE DISTANCE AND
DIRECTION GIVE WAY TO TRACKLESS DARKNESS

LOOK UPON THIS
BLOOD, MONSTERS
... THE BLOOD OF
THE ONLY MAN IN
THE WORLD
DESTINED TO
WORK OUR
DOOM!

BUT **NOW** IT IS SOMETHING WE CAN FORE-
STALL---NOW THE MARK OF THE MONSTER
WILL DOOM **HIM!** GATHER AROUND...
AND LET THE **BLACK RITUAL BEGIN!**

MIDNIGHT EVIL, MIDNIGHT DARK...
BLOOD BECAME THE MONSTER'S
MARK!

THEN... AS THE CRIMSON STAIN
TAKES ON AN UNMISTAKABLE OUT-
LINE-

**MONSTER RISE,
AND EVIL WIELD...**

--SEEK THE MAN WHOSE
FATE IS SEALED!

FOR A FLARING SECOND THE WEIRD IMAGE SHIMMERS WITH A DAZZLING GLOW... **THEN...**



HA HA! A NEW MONSTER...AND A NEW VICTIM! SEEK HIM OUT...**SMITE HIM WITH OUR CURSE!**

FOR YEARS, I SEARCHED FOR FRED THATCHER...AND FOR YEARS, WITHOUT HIS BEING AWARE OF IT... THE EVENTS IN HIS LIFE HAVE BEEN BRINGING HIM CLOSER TO **ME!** BUT HE'LL NEVER REALIZE THE POWER HE ALONE POSSESSES...BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE FOUND HIM...**HE'S LOST BOTH HIS POWER AND HIS SOUL!**



LIN AN HOUR LATER...LIKE A BLOT OF HORROR CREEPING ACROSS THE MOONLIT ROOM...



AS FRED STIRS...

WAS I DREAMING JUST A SECOND AGO --OR DID I SEE SOME THING MOVE?



Then...SWIFT AS A GLOWING DART...



GOOD THING THIS MOSQUITO BITE REALLY WOKE ME UP... OR I MIGHT HAVE SWEATED OUT A FULL-FLEDGED NIGHTMARE!



BUT **WAS** IT A MOSQUITO? THERE'S NO BUMP HERE...JUST A TINY RED MARK...AND IT ALMOST SEEMS TO HAVE A **RECOGNIZABLE SHAPE!** I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'D ASSOCIATE IT WITH VENOMA, EITHER... EXCEPT THAT IT ISN'T EASY TO GET A CHICK LIKE **HER** OFF YOUR MIND!





AFTER A SWIRLING MOMENT OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

GOOD LORD! THOSE CREEPS
ARE GONE...AND THEY'VE
TAKEN VENOMA WITH
THEM!



AS IF THE
DOOR CHIMES
HAD SOUNDED A
WARNING -
FRED MAKES
A HURRIED
SEARCH!

THE PHOTOGRAPH'S GONE - THE
VERY ONE I WANTED VENOMA TO
SEE...THE PICTURE I **KNEW**
BORE SOME RELATION TO THOSE
MONSTERS! IS **THAT** WHAT
THEY CAME
FOR?



NOPE...
THEY'RE
NOWHERE...

TING
TONG
TONG!



AS FRED RAISES HIS HAND IN A PUZZLED
GESTURE...

THAT MARK! IT'S
GROWN SINCE LAST
NIGHT...IT'S A SHAPE
I CAN'T MISTAKE...
A MONSTER!



WHAT **ELSE** DOES IT REPRESENT?
WHAT IS IT I CAN BARELY MAKE OUT
AND DON'T DARE ADMIT TO MYSELF?
I'M NOT THE TYPE THAT SCARES
EASILY BUT **NOW** I'M UP AGAINST
SOMETHING THAT HAS ME LICKED...

**THE TERROR
OF DOUBT!**



FOR SEVERAL PACING HOURS...A
TORRENT OF QUESTIONS CHURN
THROUGH FRED'S MIND!

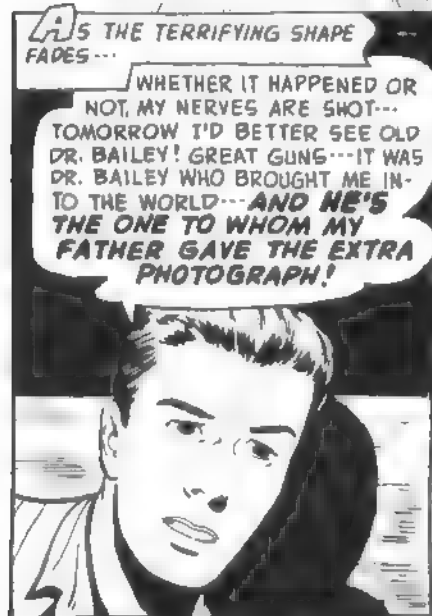
WHY DID THOSE MONSTERS APPEAR
BOTH TIMES I SAW VENOMA...
AND WHY DID SHE GLANCE AT MY
HAND TONIGHT...**EXPECTANTLY?**
IF HER BODY'S AS REAL AS IT LOOKS
...**WHY DIDN'T HER WEIGHT
ON THE DOORMAT RING
THOSE CHIMES?** THE WHOLE
KEY IS THAT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
STARS...I REMEMBER MY FATHER
GAVE A COPY OF IT TO SOMEONE
... **BUT WHO?**



TOWARD DAWN - IN THE SWAYING
TORMENT OF RESTLESS SLEEP...

VENOMA...
VENOMA! EX-
PLAIN YOUR
SECRET...
UNLESS IT
WAS MORE
A TAUNT
THAN A
PROMISE!





MY FACE! YE GODS, DOCTOR---WHAT DOES IT MEAN---WHAT ARE THOSE FIENDS TRYING TO DO?

I'VE READ ENOUGH ABOUT BLACK MAGIC TO MAKE A GUESS, FRED! BY TOMORROW NIGHT, THE FACE ON YOUR HAND WILL BE RECOGNIZABLE TO YOU---AND THEN YOU'LL BE DRAWN TO VENOMA'S HIDDEN RETREAT... TO BECOME A MONSTER YOURSELF!

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED...WHEN VENOMA TAUNTED ME LAST NIGHT! YES, I COULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM---UNTIL THAT BLACK HEARTED WITCH FOUND A WAY TO ENSLAVE ME FOREVER!

FRED---I'M GOING TO SUGGEST A DRASTIC STEP! IT WILL TAKE COURAGE---IT WILL GIVE YOU A REMINDER OF THIS TERROR FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE---BUT IT MAY SAVE YOUR SOUL!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--AS A GAUNT FIGURE APPROACHES THE LAIR OF EVIL

LOOK, FIENDS---THE BIDDING OF MY WILL HAS BROUGHT HIM HERE! AND HE WILL NEVER LEAVE---WE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE HUMAN---ONCE HE LOOKS AT HIS HAND!

YOUR DOOM IS CLOSE FRED THATCHER! THE MARK OF THE MONSTER IS ON YOUR HAND---YOUR FEATURES ARE ON THE MARK AS PROOF OF WHAT YOU SHALL NOW BECOME!

NO MARK VENOMA... NO FEATURES... NO HAND!

WHAT ABOUT IT---NOW THAT I'VE REACHED THE HAVEN OF EVIL WITHOUT YOUR CURSED BLEMISH? I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY POWER'S COMING FROM--- BUT I CAN FEEL IT SURGING THROUGH ME-- BECAUSE THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR WHICH I WAS BORN!

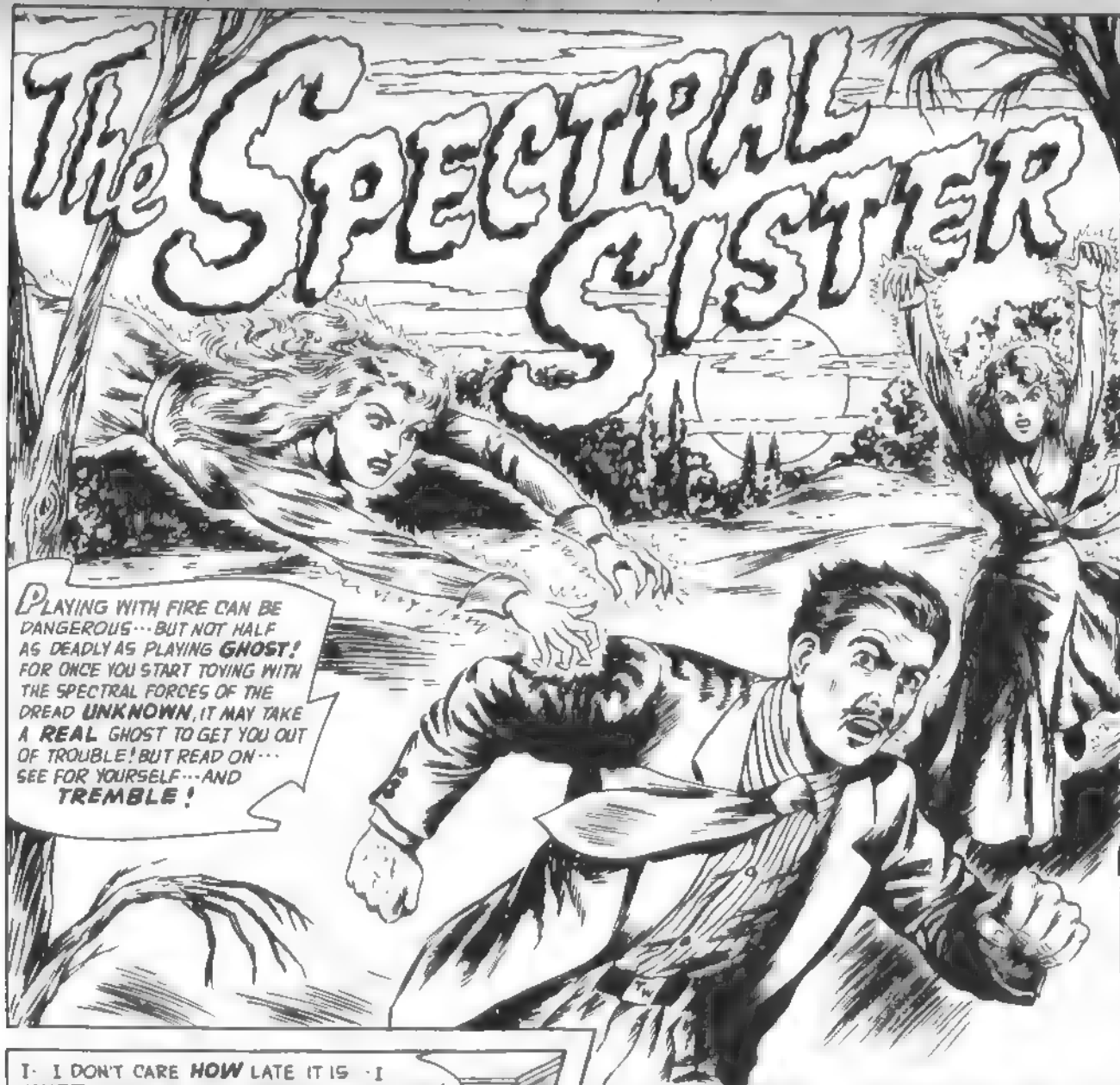
THEN, IN A FLASH THAT SHUDDERS AGAINST THE NIGHT, A TOWERING FIGURE LOOMS ABOVE THE SWAYING WALLS---THE FIGURE OF A MAN WHO FOR A SINGLE INSTANT TAKES ON THE VASTNESS OF DESTINY ITSELF---AND STRIKES!

THEY'RE GONE---BURIED UNDER THE STONES THAT KNEW THEIR CRAWLING HORROR--ENGULFED BY THE DARK PAST THAT SPAWNED THEM! I'VE LOST A HAND--- BUT I'VE GAINED RELEASE FROM A BLIND DATE WITH DOOM---AND I CAN THANK MY LUCKY STARS!

The End

The Spectral Sister

PLAYING WITH FIRE CAN BE DANGEROUS... BUT NOT HALF AS DEADLY AS PLAYING **GHOST**! FOR ONCE YOU START TOYING WITH THE SPECTRAL FORCES OF THE DREAD **UNKNOWN**, IT MAY TAKE A **REAL GHOST** TO GET YOU OUT OF TROUBLE! BUT READ ON... SEE FOR YOURSELF...AND **TREMBLE!**



I - I DON'T CARE **HOW** LATE IT IS - I **MUST** SPEAK TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY! TELL HIM THAT I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER... AND I'VE DECIDED TO TELL HIM ALL I KNOW ABOUT **TONY WALTERS!**

ALL RIGHT, MISS BEAUMONT... I'LL SWITCH YOUR CALL THROUGH TO MR. GORDON'S HOME!



OH-HHH!



HELLO... HELLO...



NEXT MORNING, 3,000 MILES AWAY IN A HOTEL AT LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA...



I FIRST GOT THE IDEA WHEN YOU SAID YOU THOUGHT I WAS **ALICE'S GHOST**! SHE'D WRITTEN ME ABOUT WALTERS...AND MENTIONED THAT SHE HADN'T TOLD HIM SHE HAD A TWIN GISTER! AND SINCE WALTERS DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ME, HE MIGHT BE **FRIGHTENED** INTO CONFESSING IF HE THINKS **SHE** CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO HAUNT HIM!



BUT I'LL NEED **YOUR** HELP TO GO THROUGH WITH MY PLAN! I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES ALICE WAS WEARING WHEN SHE WAS MURDERED! THOSE, PLUS SOME PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT, MIGHT MAKE A MIGHTY CONVINCING **SPECTER**!

SORRY, MISS BEAUMONT...IT'S TOO RISKY! WALTERS **MIGHT** BE SCARED ENOUGH TO **SHOOT**...AND I DON'T WANT **TWO** DEAD BEAUMONTS ON MY HANDS!



THEN I'LL DO IT **WITHOUT** YOUR HELP...AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME! I'M WILLING TO RISK MY LIFE TO PROVE I CAN TERRIFY HIM INTO CONFESSING!

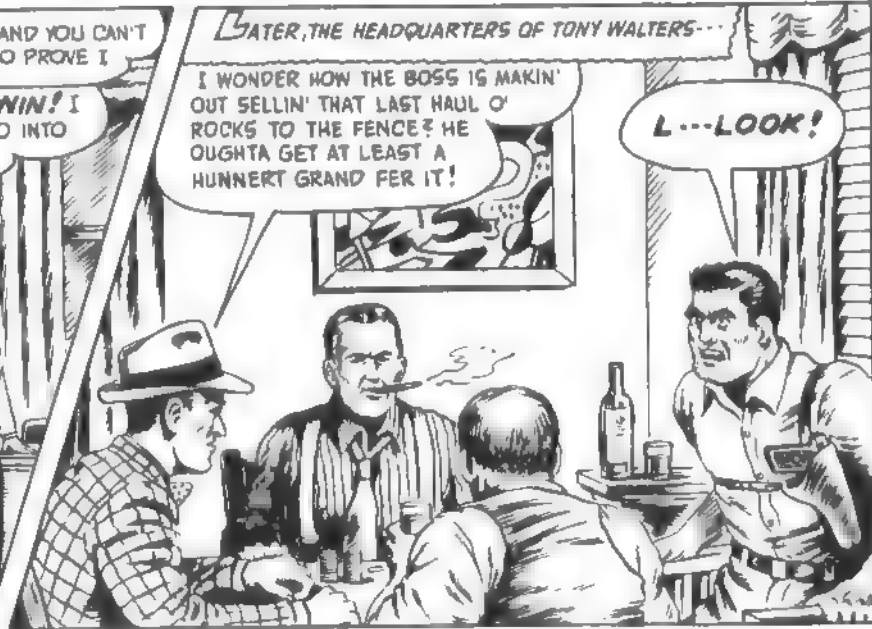
NO, WAIT...**YOU WIN!** I CAN'T LET YOU GO INTO THIS **ALONE**!



LATER, THE HEADQUARTERS OF TONY WALTERS...

I WONDER HOW THE BOSS IS MAKIN' OUT SELLIN' THAT LAST HAUL O' ROCKS TO THE FENCE? HE OUGHTA GET AT LEAST A HUNNERT GRAND FER IT!

L...LOOK!



AM I **SEEN** T'INGS?

IT...IT'S DA **BEAUMONT** DAME...COME BACK TA HAUNT US!

GO...GO...BEFORE I REVENGE MYSELF ON YOU!





GO...LEAVE THIS HOUSE AND NEVER RETURN!

L...LET'S BEAT IT, BOYS!

NO...IT'S ONLY A TRICK! HOT LEAD FROM A .45 OUGHTA TAKE CARE O' THIS PHONEY GHOST!



THE...THE BULLETS ARE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HER...BUT SHE KEEPS COMIN' ON!

FOOL...YOU CANNOT KILL THE DEAD!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

THIS PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT CERTAINLY MAKES ME LOOK GHOSTLY ENOUGH... I EVEN SCARE MYSELF!



FLEE...BEFORE MY WRATH STRIKES YOU DOWN!

LET'S GET OUT OF TOWN...FAST!



AT THAT MOMENT...

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT EFFECT IT HAS ON OTHERS...THERE'S WALTERS' HOUSE UP AHEAD! WE'VE HAD IT WATCHED, SO WE KNOW HE ISN'T HOME NOW! BUT HIS GANGMEN ARE...AND THERE THEY COME NOW!



WOW...LOOK AT THEM GO! WHAT IN BLAZES COULD'VE MADE THEM BOLT LIKE THAT?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? NOW WE CAN GO INTO THE HOUSE AND WAIT FOR WALTERS TO SHOW UP!

ZOOM!



MEANWHILE...

GOODBYE, MR WALTERS...IT WAS A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU!

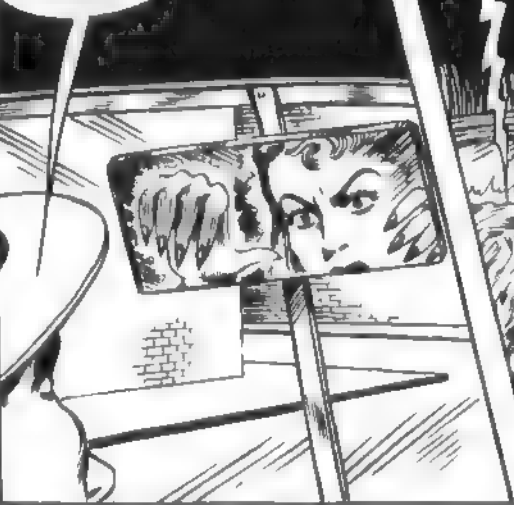
A PLEASURE FOR YOU! YOU'LL SELL THOSE HOT JEWELS FOR 300 GRAND...AND YOU ONLY PAID ME A THIRD OF THAT! OH WELL, I CAN'T COMPLAIN...I CLEANED UP PLENTY IN THIS BURG...THANKS TO THAT DUMB ALICE BEAUMONT!

JEWELRY
GEMS
BOUGHT
AND
SOLD

TOO BAD I HAD TO BUMP HER OFF... SHE MUST'VE HAD A FEW MORE FRIENDS I COULD'VE ROBBED! I'LL HAVE TO GO TO SOME OTHER TOWN NOW... AND START THE WHOLE RACKET OVER, IF I CAN LOCATE A SUCKER LIKE ALICE!



HUH? I...I'D BETTER STOP THE CAR...I'M SEEIN' THINGS!



I'VE COME FOR YOU... MURDERER!

THOSE...THOSE HANDS...LIKE ICE...LIKE THE TOUCH OF DEATH! GET AWAY FROM ME... WHATEVER YOU ARE!



THE...THE BULLETS DON'T STOP HER...I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

FOOL...YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE ME!



ARGH!



GET BACK TO THE CAR...DO AS I SAY...OR I'LL PLUCK YOUR BLACK HEART OUT!

I...I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY HEAD! NOW THAT I KNOW THIS THING IS REAL, I CAN THINK UP A WAY TO OUTWIT IT...I'VE GOTTEN OUT OF TIGHTER SPOTS THAN THIS!



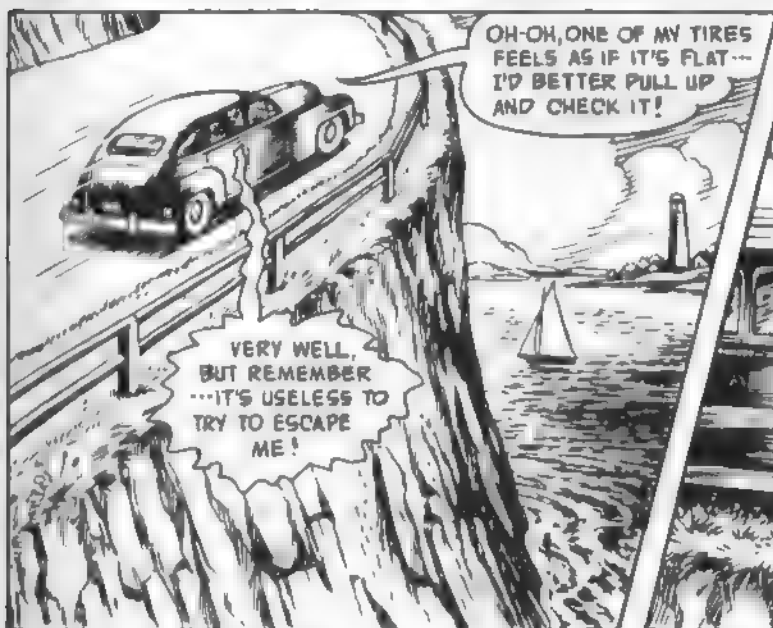
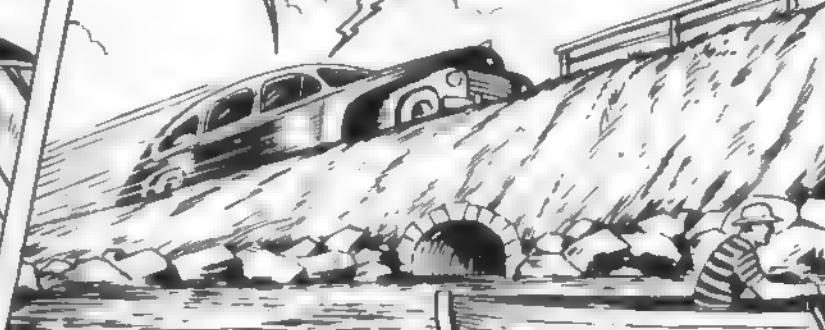
IF ONLY I CAN FIND SOME ANGLE...HMMM...

I HAVE NOT BEEN A SPIRIT LONG ENOUGH TO GAIN ALL MY POWERS! BUT THE **UNKNOWN** HAS GIVEN ME STRANGE WEAPONS TO FIGHT **YOU**... AND GAIN **MY REVENGE!**

I THOUGHT GHOSTS COULD GO RIGHT THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS-- HOW COME **YOU** HAVE TO OPEN THE DOOR TO GET INTO THE CAR?

BUT YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST ONE I'VE KILLED...AND THE **OTHERS** NEVER CAME BACK TO HAUNT ME! WHY WERE **YOU** ALLOWED TO RETURN TO EARTH?

ONLY BECAUSE ONE DEAR TO ME MIGHT BE IN DANGER IF I **DIDN'T** RETURN! BUT NOW, NO MORE QUESTIONS...**DRIVE TO YOUR HOME!** THERE YOU WILL SIGN YOUR CONFESSION, AND I WILL NO LONGER HAUNT YOU!



OH-OH, ONE OF MY TIRES FEELS AS IF IT'S FLAT... I'D BETTER PULL UP AND CHECK IT!

VERY WELL, BUT REMEMBER...IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO ESCAPE ME!



A MOMENT LATER...

HAA...I LEFT THE HAND THROTTLE ON! OVER YOU GO!

CRASH!



THERE'S FORTY FEET OF WATER AT THAT SPOT...AND SINCE YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH SOLIDS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE CAR AGAINST THE PRESSURE OF THE WATER! I'M RID OF YOU...**FOR GOOD!**

Later...

A CAB JUST PULLED UP...WALTERS IS GETTING OUT! I'LL HIDE IN THE CLOSET JUST IN CASE HE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN EASILY AND YOU NEED **HELP!**

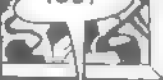
LET HIM COME--I'LL BE WAITING FOR HIM!



HEY, BOYS---I GOT THE DOUGH! HEY---WHERE IN BLAZES ARE YOU ALL?



YOU! THEN I
---I **DIDN'T**
GET RID OF
YOU!



YOU CAN **NEVER** GET RID OF ME! I'LL HAUNT YOU TILL THE DAY YOU DIE, TONY WALTERS
---UNLESS YOU SIGN A CONFESSION THAT YOU MURDERED ME!



THERE IT IS---
SIGN IT OR
I'LL---



NO---NO---I
---I COULDN'T
STAND YOUR ICY
FINGERS AGAIN!
**I'LL SIGN
IT!**



WHAT DID HE MEAN, HE COULDN'T STAND MY ICY FINGERS AGAIN? I MUST'VE FRIGHTENED HIM OUT OF HIS MIND!



THERE---IT'S
SIGNED! NOW
WILL YOU STOP
HAUNTING ME
---AS YOU
PROMISED?

YES, SHE'LL STOP
---BUT NOW THE
LAW WILL
START HAUNTING
YOU!



HUH?
WHAT'S THE
D.A. DOING
HERE?



ALL RIGHT, JUNE
---YOU CAN DROP THE
MASQUERADE
NOW!



TONY, ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE **JUNE**
BEAUMONT--ALICE'S
TWIN SISTER!



THEN IT---IT WAS ALL
A **TRICK**---THERE
NEVER WAS ANY
GHOST!



OF **COURSE**
NOT, STUPID! AND
NOW, IF YOU'LL EX-
CUSE ME, I'M GOING
TO WASH OFF THIS
PHOSPHORESCENT
PAINT!



I'VE GOT A TRICK
UP MY SLEEVE, TOO
---MY **FIST!**





YOU FORGOT ABOUT THOSE BULLET HOLES IN THE CAR, TONY--- I GOT OUT THROUGH THEM! AND NOW--- I'LL SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY--- TO ETERNITY!



the WITCH'S CURSE

FLAME BRIGHTLY!
FLAME FIERCELY!
DESTROY AND
DEVOUR!

TIME HAS DIMMED THE BITTER MEMORY OF THE SADOISTIC SALEM WITCH BURNINGS! BUT OUT OF THIS CHARRED CHAPTER IN NEW ENGLAND'S TURBULENT PAST, STALKS A GRISLY MENACE THAT MOVES RELENTLESSLY TO FULFILL THE FLAMING FURY OF--
THE WITCH'S CURSE!

ON A HONEYMOON TRIP THROUGH NEW ENGLAND--

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE WITCH BURNINGS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, I GET THE SHUDDERS!

THAT HAPPENED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, ELLEN! IT'S ALL IN THE PAST!

CHEER UP, HONEY! WE'RE PRACTICALLY AT THE HOUSE!

CURT--
LOOK!

GREAT GUNS! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SHADOW OF A--
WITCH!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE--
STOP THE CAR!



IT... IT'S JUST A CAT! THE POSITION OF THE LEAF AND THE ANGLE OF THE SUN RESULTED IN A TRICK SHADOW!

OH! THANK GOODNESS!



THERE'S YOUR NEW ENGLAND WITCH FOR YOU -- JUST A HARMLESS KITTY!

SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL! I'M GOING TO ADOPT HER!



I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! SHE WON'T LET ME GET NEAR HER AND YET... SHE ISN'T RUNNING AWAY!

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE WERE LEADING US SOMEWHERE!

SUDDENLY, AS THE THICKET LEADS INTO A CLEARING--



A BUZZARD! THERE'S SOMETHING-- SINISTER ABOUT THIS PLACE!

HMM... THAT FIRE-BLACKENED STONE PILLAR-- THIS COULD BE A RELIC OF THE OLD WITCH BURNINGS!



THAT CAT IS ACTING STRANGELY-- AS THOUGH SHE WANTED ME TO TOUCH THE PILLAR!

DON'T DO IT, CURT! PLEASE, I-- I'M AFRAID!



NONSENSE, ELLEN! THERE'S NO HARM IN TOUCHING-- YE GODS! WHAT'S THAT?

MERCIFUL HEAVENS!



THEY'RE ALIVE -- FLAMING! I... I'M BURNING UP!

COME ON, HONEY-- WE'LL MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!



SUDDENLY, EMERGING FROM THE FELINE SHAPE --
A TERRIFYING TRANSFORMATION!



THE CAT-- IT'S
TURNING INTO A
WOMAN!

GREAT SCOTT-- IT... IT'S
NOT POSSIBLE!

MAYBE
IT'S A
NIGHT-
MARE--
A DREAM!

NO, FOOLS-- I AM A **SPIRIT**--
THE **SPIRIT OF HESTER MATHER!**
THREE CENTURIES AGO THIS WAS MY
HOME-- UNTIL THEY BURNED ME AS
A WITCH AT THE STAKE IN
YONDER FIELD!



BUT THE **EVIL** IN MY
SPIRIT WAS NOT DESTROYED!
ONE DAY EACH CENTURY I
RETURN TO FIND A
**VICTIM-- WHO
MUST PERISH
AS I DID!**



YOU ESCAPED ME ONCE
TODAY, WOMAN-- BUT
YOU WILL NOT ELUDE
ME AGAIN!



WAIT! **WHY
MUST SHE
PERISH?**

BECAUSE EITHER **SHE** BURNS BEFORE
NIGHTFALL. OR MY OWN **SPIRIT
WILL BE DESTROYED!**

I DON'T
INTEND TO
ALLOW
THAT!

HELP ME,
CURT!
OH!!!

THIS IS
ONE VICTIM
YOU'RE
**NOT
GOING
TO HAVE!**



BUT AS CURT ADVANCED TO RESCUE ELLEN, HE WAS
MET BY A FEARSOME, **PARALYZING FORCE!**

MISERABLE MORTAL!
DO YOU THINK YOU
CAN STOP ME?



AGH!

SS-S-T

FOOL! FOR INTERFERING, YOU TOO, SHALL
BE DESTROYED! LISTEN-- WHILE I
SUMMON MY **COHORT!**



THEN, AFTER THE WITCH'S WEIRD INCANTATION--
A **HIDEOUS APPARITION!**



YOU SENT FOR
ME, O
MISTRESS?

YES! YON DAZED
WRETCH DARED TO
OPPOSE ME! CARRY
HIM OFF TO THE
DREAD REALM
BEYOND!

HIS DOOM
IS SEALED!
AND NOW,
MY LOVELY
ONE-- **THE
STAKE!**



MOMENTS LATER, REVIVED
BY THE COLD AIR--



YE GODS--WHAT AM I DOING UP **HERE?**
AND THIS DEMON-- AH, NOW I REMEMBER!
THE **WITCH**-- SHE'S GOT ELLEN! I'VE GOT
TO SAVE HER-- BUT **HOW?** HMM-- THAT
LAKE BELOW-- GIVES ME
A CHANCE! AND
HERE-- **GOES!**

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE
ELEMENT OF **SURPRISE**--
WHEN YOU ATTACK!



ARGHHH!

WHAM!

IF I CAN ONLY HOLD ON--A
FEW SECONDS MORE--
TILL WE-- **CRASH!**



DID
IT!

I THOUGHT SO! THE
DEMON **VANISHED**
WHEN WE HIT THE WATER!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT
BUT A COLUMN OF
STEAM!





THIS IS THE SAME THICKET WHERE WE SAW THE STONE STAKE! MAYBE I CAN STILL GET THERE IN TIME-- I'VE GOT TO!

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY--



THERE! NOW WE'RE READY FOR THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL GUARANTEE MY IMMORTALITY FOR ANOTHER CENTURY!

NO, YOU FIEND-- NO!



AND NOW-- RISE, MY FOLLOWERS-- **RISE!**

OHNN!

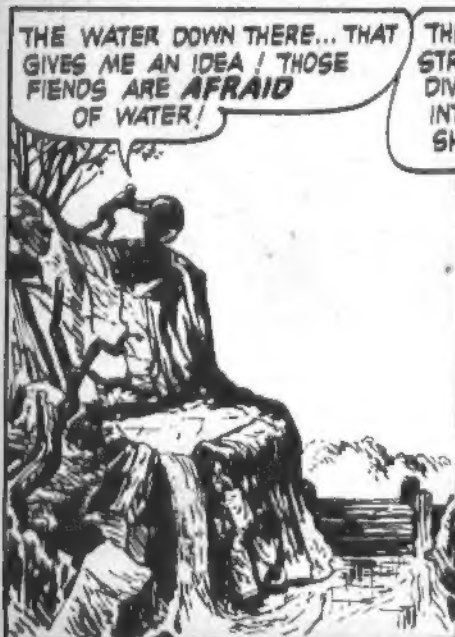
AS ELLEN'S CRY OF TERROR ECHOES THROUGH THE WOODS--



HELP!

ELLEN... SHE'S STILL ALIVE! BUT I'D NEVER GET TO HER IN TIME-- EVEN IF I COULD STOP THOSE DEMONS!

WAIT--



THE WATER DOWN THERE... THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! THOSE FIENDS ARE **AFRAID** OF WATER!

THEY WERE AFRAID TO CROSS THE STREAM, AND THE CREEP WHO DIVED INTO THE LAKE EVAPORATED INTO STEAM! IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IT'S MY **ONLY HOPE!**



AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR YOUR FIERY DOOM-- WHICH WILL BRING ME ANOTHER CENTURY OF LIFE! **BEHOLD!**



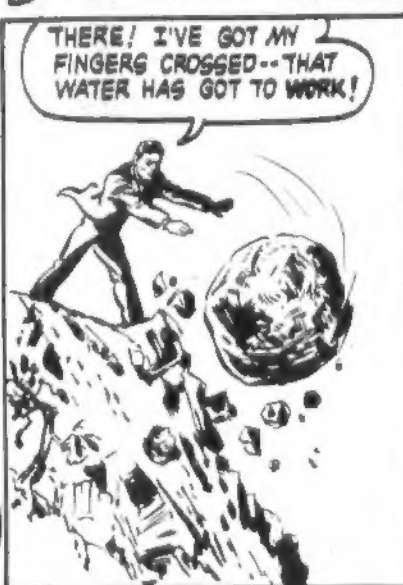
SUDDENLY, THE EVIL SPIRIT OF HESTER MATHER IS TRANSFORMED INTO A FLAMING TORCH--

LET THE FLAMES ASCEND TO SCORCH AND CONSUME!



BUT ON THE NEARBY HILLTOP--

THERE! I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED--THAT WATER HAS GOT TO WORK!



A FLOOD!
THE DAM
-IT'S
BROKEN!

THE WATER--NO!
YAAAGH!



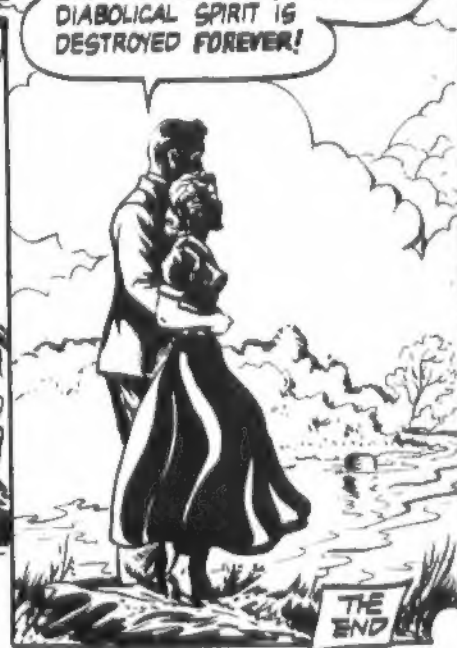
WH-WHAT
HAPPENED?
THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT BUT
COLUMNS
OF STEAM!

ELLEN, ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

CURT,
YOU'RE
SAFE!
THANK
GOODNESS!

NO, THANK THE WATER!
THAT'S WHAT DID THE
TRICK!-- THE ONE
THING THEY
COULDN'T
WITHSTAND!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, HONEY!
HESTER MATHER DIDN'T GET HER
VICTIM AFTER ALL, AND HER
DIABOLICAL SPIRIT IS
DESTROYED FOREVER!



THE
END

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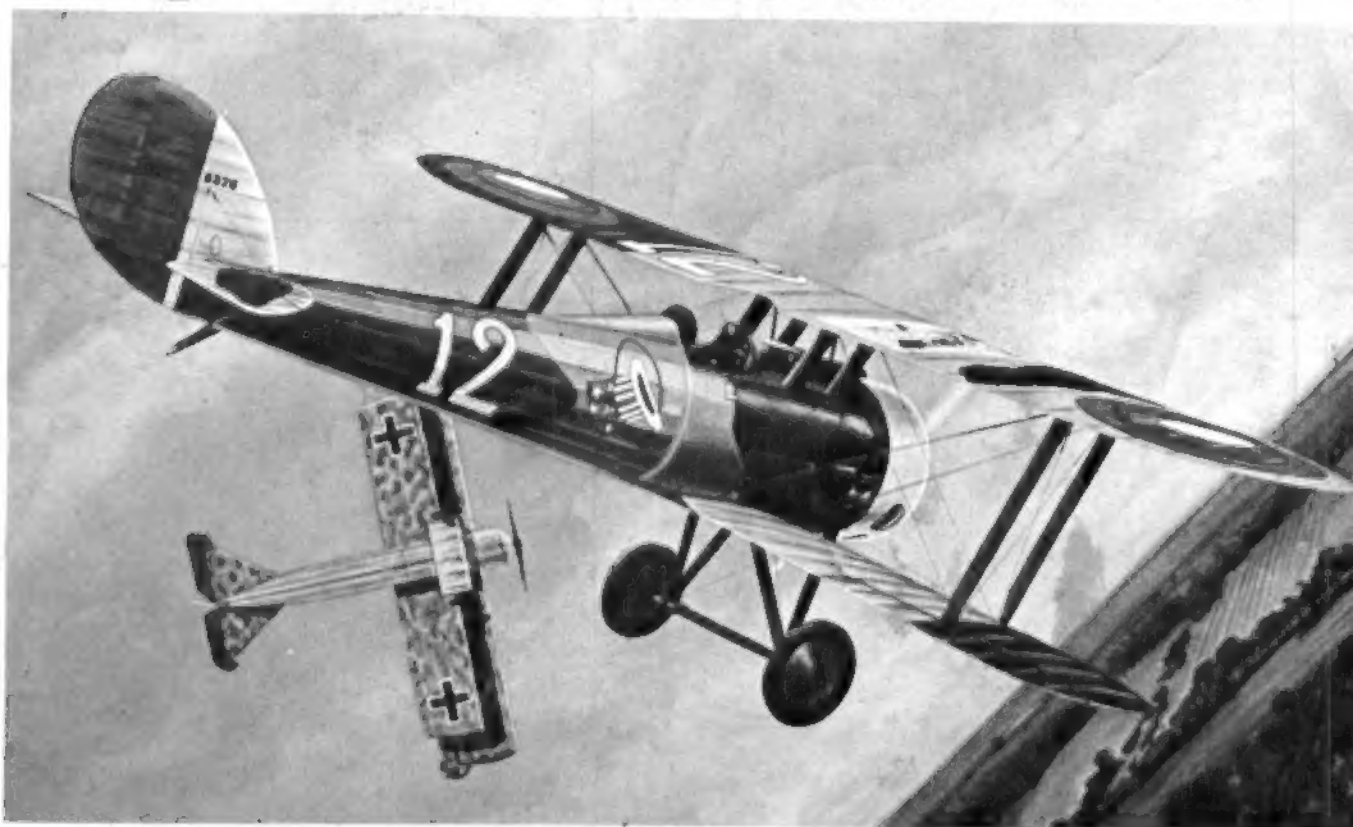
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